

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A friction singler for singling sheet-shaped value documents (5), ~~in particular bank notes (BN)~~, comprising:
 - a sheet magazine (16) for receiving a stack of sheets (5),
 - a picking device with a singler element (1), the singler element having, for contacting and conveying the sheets (5a) to be singled from the sheet magazine (16), one or more friction elements (3) with at least one groove (2) extending in the transport direction of the sheets (5a) to be singled, and
 - a retaining device (14) which forms with the singler element (1) a singler gap (19) through which sheets (5a) to be singled are conveyed from the sheet magazine (16), and which has friction areas (14a) of high coefficient of friction and sliding areas (14b) of low coefficient of friction cooperating with the groove (2) of the singler element (1),characterized in that the groove (2) of the singler element (1) cooperates both with a friction area (14a) and with a sliding area (14b) of the retaining device (14).
2. (Currently Amended) A ~~retaining~~friction singler according to claim 1, characterized in that the singler element (1) has a plurality of grooves (2) extending in the transport direction of the sheets (5a) to be singled, and at least two, ~~in particular all~~, grooves (2) of the singler element (1) each cooperate both

with a friction area (14a) and with a sliding area (14b) of the friction device (14).

3. (Original) A friction singler according to claim 2, characterized in that the order of friction and sliding areas (14a, 14b) cooperating with the grooves (2), viewed transversely to the transport direction, is different for different grooves (2).
4. (Original) A friction singler according to claim 3, characterized in that the order is opposite for adjacent grooves (2).
5. (Currently Amended) A friction singler according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
6. (Currently Amended) A friction singler according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
7. (New) The friction singler of claim 1, wherein said documents are bank notes.
8. (New) The friction singler of claim 2, wherein said at least two grooves include all grooves.
9. (New) A friction singler according to claim 2, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
10. (New) A friction singler according to claim 3, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).

11. (New) A friction singler according to claim 4, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
12. (New) A friction singler according to claim 7, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
13. (New) A friction singler according to claim 8, characterized in that the retaining device (14) comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas (14a) and sliding areas (14b).
14. (New) A friction singler according to claim 2, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
15. (New) A friction singler according to claim 3, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
16. (New) A friction singler according to claim 4, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
17. (New) A friction singler according to claim 5, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
18. (New) A friction singler according to claim 7, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.
19. (New) A friction singler according to claim 8, characterized in that the singler element (1) is a singler roller.